TO: DCCCD BOARD MEMBERS
FROM: JOE D. MAY
DATE: JULY 31, 2015
RE: WEEKEND MEMO #66

**COMMENTS FROM JOE D. MAY**

Good afternoon!

This week was filled with conversations in Washington, DC, and elsewhere about higher education and the students we serve. Community colleges remain in the spotlight as discussion continues about recruiting and retaining students, making college affordable (or free), and reaching out to non-consumers of higher education — those individuals who have never considered college as an option or a path they can take to better jobs and better lives.

As we prepare to welcome our students in a few weeks, we are also getting ready to launch our 50th anniversary celebration — an exciting time for all of us.

Have a great weekend, and we’ll catch up again next week!

Joe May

(Note: For the best viewing experience, please use the latest version of Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, Opera, or Apple Safari.)

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**El Centro College**

A proposal from El Centro College’s Samantha Schulze, English faculty, and Joselyn Gonzalez, human development faculty and coordinator, has been accepted by the college’s Circles of Excellence Committee. The two submitted the proposal to initiate an institutional and comprehensive common book program after piloting their own grass roots program in the spring, with the theme, “Grit.” The Circles of Excellence proposal includes an increase in books supplied to students, speaker funding, funding for additional activities, and an app. Schulze and Gonzalez envision the common book as a way to encourage cross-curricular critical reading while supporting and enhancing academic writing skills via a common text. In addition, the common book should provide a platform that encourages community involvement and promotes both acclimation to and cross-curricular engagement with El Centro College.
Responsibilities of Children. Protective services, such as those provided by Child Protective Services (CPS) in child welfare cases in the 305th Juvenile District Court in the Dallas County District Attorney's Office. In this position, Kotwal is responsible for representing Child Protective Services (CPS) in child welfare cases in an attorney-client role in the best interest of the children. Housed within the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, CPS is a division with responsibilities that include investigation of abuse and neglect, working with families, and managing the thousands of children in foster care.

On July 21, four DCCCD STEM Scholars, Alayna Dublin (Mountain View College), Jean-Christian Guiton (North Lake College), Jarratt Willis (El Centro College), and Danny Lam (Eastfield College), presented their summer research results at Sharyland Utilities (SU), a public electric utility, as part of an internship program. The Scholars, under the mentorship of El Centro College Chemistry Professor Dr. Jozef Borvak, had the opportunity to conduct research on the electric company’s communication network in connection with its smart meter, which is currently under development. This unique opportunity allowed students to gain real professional experience and interact with professionals in various fields, and also with leadership and executives of the company. In addition, students learned the most important elements of public appearance, professional behavior, and scientific interactions; the Scholars also pointed the attention of SU professionals to unusual and novel topics in their field from an academia point of view.

El Centro College students and staff had the opportunity to attend the 11th Annual Association for the Promotion of Campus Activities (APCA) Leadership on Broadway Conference that was held in New York City, July 16-19. On July 16, El Centro College attendees volunteered at a Boys & Girls Club and served on a panel to share their educational journey and experiences with local teens. The Council of the City of New York presented each volunteer with a City Council Citation certificate acknowledging its appreciation for his/her service in the community. In addition, students received certificates for successfully completing studies in APCA’s Student Activities Development program. El Centro College participants networked with other delegates, toured historic landmarks, and enjoyed the Broadway show, Something Rotten!, and they attended a question/answer session that included cast members from the show. Students and staff from El Centro College who attended the APCA conference include: A'Shief Moss, Diana Jasso, Beverly Rasnick, Jason Hui, Marlene Gonzalez (Office of Student Life program specialist), and Shanee’ Moore (associate dean, student programs and resources, and health services).

Richland College

Employee Success — Michael Kotwal, Richland College criminal justice adjunct instructor, was recently promoted to chief prosecutor in charge of child welfare cases in the 305th Juvenile District Court in the Dallas County District Attorney’s Office. In this position, Kotwal is responsible for representing Child Protective Services (CPS) in child welfare cases in an attorney-client role in the best interest of the children. Housed within the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, CPS is a division with responsibilities that include investigation of abuse and neglect, working with families, and managing the thousands of children in foster care.
**Student Success** — The Metroplex Technology Business Council has announced that Richland College is a finalist for the Tech Titan of the Future University Level award for its STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) summer camp for middle school girls. The camp is a partnership with Girls Inc. of Metropolitan Dallas — a nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring all girls to be strong, smart, and bold — and The University of Texas at Dallas. Winners will be announced August 21 at the Tech Titans Awards Gala, which will be held at the InterContinental Dallas Hotel located in Addison.

The 30 students in the Richland College Texas Prefreshman Engineering Program (TexPREP) Class of 2015 celebrated graduation ceremonies and received their completion certificates on July 23 in front of more than a hundred family members, friends, and program staff. TexPREP is an academically intense, mathematics-based summer enrichment program for high-achieving students who have demonstrated mathematical ability through their academic performance. By successfully completing the Program, each participant earns one unit of Texas Education Agency-approved high school elective credit. The 2015 TexPREP students, from across the Dallas-Fort Worth area, spent six weeks studying Logic Application to Math, Algebraic Structures, Introduction to Engineering, and Robotics, and also participated in career awareness seminars and field trips related to STEM fields.

**North Lake College**

*Our Students* — North Lake College TRIO Student Support Services and the Irving Hispanic Chamber of Commerce provided workshops on July 16-17 to provide students with training in emotional intelligence (EI) and real world experiences. TRIO students participated in EQ (Emotional Quotient)-i training that was facilitated by a certified emotional intelligence trainer who focused on accelerating the understanding of EI and the role it plays in successful academics, work, and personal life. Student leaders will have the opportunity to shadow Irving Hispanic Chamber members and business executives throughout 2015-16 to observe how to utilize EI in leadership roles. Detra Craig is the director of North Lake College TRIO Student Support Services.

*Our Employees* — The 2015 Continuous Quality Improvement Network Summer Institute was held July 29-August 1 at the Dallas/Plano Marriott Hotel at Legacy Town Center. The theme of this year’s Institute was “Leading and Managing Change: New Paths and Opportunities.” Twelve faculty and staff members represented North Lake College at the Institute.

North Lake College Physics instructor Maria Hossu attended the American Association of Physics Teachers Conference, which was held at the University of Maryland in College Park, MD, July 25-29.

Lina Rinh, associate circulation coordinator at North Lake College, attended the Texas Library Association Annual Assembly held in Austin, July 7-10. Association officers and committee members planned events for the upcoming year, with particular focus on the 2016 annual conference, which will be held in Houston. Rinh currently serves on the Lariat Committee, which is responsible for selecting the best adult fiction books.

**Cedar Valley College**

*Our Climate Leadership* — Second Nature, a national nonprofit that works to proactively build a sustainable and positive global future by working with leadership networks in higher education, has announced the finalists for its sixth annual Climate Leadership Awards. Cedar Valley College is among the finalists — just one of three in the state of Texas. (The other two are Alamo Colleges and Huston-Tillotson University.) The Climate Leadership Awards is a national awards program/competition among higher education institutions that are signatories of the American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment, a signature program of Second Nature. This year, Second Nature is partnering with the U.S. Green Building Council’s Center for Green Schools, for the Climate Leadership Awards.
Two winners (one two-year and one four-year institution) will be recognized as part of the 2015 Greenbuild Leadership Awards Program on November 19 in Washington, DC.

**Our Workforce Development & Continuing Education** — The Cedar Valley College Workforce Development & Continuing Education (WD&CE) Department recently celebrated the long-awaited signing of its contract with KLLM Transportation Services. KLLM offers clients the opportunity to train to be a truck driver at the KLLM Driving Academy. Clients are able to go on the road as Class A truck drivers in 22 days, and KLLM guarantees drivers a job when they successfully complete their training. Additionally, tuition is covered by a scholarship for drivers who agree to drive for KLLM for one year after they complete their training. Cedar Valley College WD&CE will be providing classes and coursework for the instructional side of this program; KLLM is creating a thousand new jobs with a guarantee of employment.

**Brookhaven College**

**Employee Success** — Roy Allen, Jr., director of instrumental studies and saxophone professor at Brookhaven College, was selected by the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) to choose the TMEA all-state saxophone études for the 2015-16 academic year. The three études (music selections) selected by Allen will be used by all 4-6A high school saxophone students to compete at the region/area/state levels to make the TMEA All-State Symphonic and Concert bands. As part of being a music selector, Allen gave a presentation in which he discussed each of the pieces and then performed them before 300 high school saxophone students and band directors attending the 2015 Texas Bandmasters Association (TBA) Convention/Clinic in San Antonio, July 23-26. At this annual event, the TBA hosts approximately 6,500 people from across the state, including 2,500 band directors.

**Institutional Effectiveness** — The Brookhaven College Texas Prefreshman Engineering Program (TexPREP) for middle and high school students concluded on July 24. During the summer, students attended courses in Logic and its Applications to Mathematics, Introduction to Engineering, Problem Solving, Algebraic Structures, Physics, and more. This academically challenging program also required participants to complete projects and homework online and to attend STEM-based field trips. Sixty-one students successfully completed TexPREP, qualifying each to receive one high school elective credit. The goal of the Program is to encourage students to seek a career in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. The Dallas Section of the Society of Petroleum Engineers offered academic scholarships for non-Dallas ISD students; Atmos Energy of Plano hosted a hands-on tour that included lunch for all Brookhaven College students and staff; and Raytheon hosted an educational outreach tour.

**Mountain View College**

**Community Success** — Mountain View College is slated to hold its second annual TEDx event on September 24, from 5 to 8 p.m. in the college Performance Hall. This independently organized event, licensed by TED, will feature local voices and TEDTalks videos under the theme, “Dare to Bend.” At TEDxMountainViewCollege (where x = independently organized TED event), a TEDTalks video and live speakers will combine to spark deep discussion and connection in small groups. The talks will explore mind-bending truths, new ideas, and/or different perspectives. The host for this year’s TEDx event is Krys Boyd, managing editor and host of KERA-FM’s talk show, Think. For more information about TEDxMountainViewCollege, please visit [www.tedxmountainviewcollege.org](http://www.tedxmountainviewcollege.org) or [www.facebook.com/TEDxMountainViewCollege](http://www.facebook.com/TEDxMountainViewCollege).

Through Mountain View College’s partnership with the Garland Health Center, $25 meningitis vaccinations were offered at the college on July 23. The event was very successful; 66 vaccines were administered to students and community members. Representatives from the Center will return during
The Dallas Morning News called it DGDG’s “most accessible show to date ... [with] humor play[ing] a big role and winning tune[s].” TheaterJones stated it was “one of the must-see events of the summer” and that “the performance is superb.” The Dallas Observer noted that it “has everything you want in a festival production: a strong and attractive cast, witty script ... and an original score ... that falls pleasantly on the ear. ... Choreography by Georgiou blends Twyla Tharp-y bursts of loose spins and gymnastic lifts.” The Dallas Voice stated that the stories “paint a hopeful yet complex picture of manhood,” and Critical Rant added that the show “explores identity, fear, weakness, coming of age, and learning to take first steps toward self-actualization, all universal subjects. The performance makes an exquisite piece of theater ... beautiful, engaging, skillful and moving.”

Advance Student Success — For the past six weeks, Eastfield College has hosted 30 sixth graders for its Texas Prefreshman Engineering Program (TexPREP), a summer camp that focuses on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). During the camp, students were introduced to engineering, problem solving, and logic. These learning objectives were applied to projects, such as bottle rockets, wind tunnel cars, and soldering kits. In addition to learning, students took field trips to the Dallas Zoo and the Perot Museum of Nature and Science to explore the science branch of STEM fields. Upon completion of the Program, each student received one unit of high school elective credit. The TexPREP camp was under the direction of Donielle Johnson, director of the Office of Marketing and Educational Partnerships at Eastfield College.

Eastfield College

Foster Employee Success — The Show About Men, from the DGDG (Danielle Georgiou Dance Group), concluded a successful run at the Festival of Independent Theatres on July 30. Created by Eastfield College Dance Program Coordinator Danielle Georgiou in collaboration with Co-director Justin Locklear, musician, Trey Pendergrass, and a small cast of performers, The Show About Men focuses on the catch-22 of manhood in modern culture. Men are typically paid more and provided more opportunities than women, and are often in charge of deciding the freedoms of women and children. With such benefits, do men really have a place to express their anxiety, explore their emotions, or voice their opinions without being less “manly?” The production was met with critical acclaim. The Dallas Morning News called it DGDG’s “most accessible show to date ... [with] humor play[ing] a big role and winning tune[s].” TheaterJones stated it was “one of the must-see events of the summer” and that “the performance is superb.” The Dallas Observer noted that it “has everything you want in a festival production: a strong and attractive cast, witty script ... and an original score ... that falls pleasantly on the ear. ... Choreography by Georgiou blends Twyla Tharp-y bursts of loose spins and gymnastic lifts.” The Dallas Voice stated that the stories “paint a hopeful yet complex picture of manhood,” and Critical Rant added that the show “explores identity, fear, weakness, coming of age, and learning to take first steps toward self-actualization, all universal subjects. The performance makes an exquisite piece of theater ... beautiful, engaging, skillful and moving.”

Academic Success — The Academic Outreach and Recruitment Department hosted a closing ceremony for the Mountain View College Texas Prefreshman Engineering Program (TexPREP) on July 27 in the East Foyer. The ceremony opened with a display of projects by the TexPREP students. Completion certificates were presented and, also, awards for excellence, most improved, and perfect attendance. Approximately 300 family members, friends, staff, and community members attended the ceremony, including numerous Dallas ISD representatives. As a thank you for their participation in TexPREP, the students received school supplies for the upcoming school year.

TexPREP is an academically intense, mathematics-based summer enrichment program. The Program is presented in a seven-week session over the course of three summers, each year progressively harder and building upon the previous year’s work. Students who have demonstrated mathematical ability through academic performance, and have been recommended by a teacher/counselor are provided the opportunity to study science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Along with classroom instruction, the students participate in related field trips throughout the Metroplex and are exposed to guest speakers and activities geared toward sparking further interest in STEM fields.

Mountain View College’s Midnight Registration on August 10 from 5 to 7 p.m. The meningitis vaccinations are for students 19 years and older who have no insurance; a photo ID is required. Vaccines are also available to Mountain View College students at the Garland Health Center/Clinic (206 Carver Drive, Garland, TX 75040), Mondays through Fridays, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome!
Meet Community Educational Needs — For the fourth year, Eastfield College participated in the summer Dallas Mayor’s Intern Fellows Program. The Program introduces exemplary Dallas high school students to possible future careers, professional opportunities, and valuable workplace skills while providing area companies, nonprofits, and government entities a meaningful way to make an investment in the youth of Dallas and its future workplace. Seagoville High School senior, Maria Gamez, worked in the Eastfield College Office of Marketing and Educational Partnerships, Admissions, and Office of College Communications for eight weeks.

LeCroy Center

Institutional Effectiveness — The LeCroy Center Leadership Team attended the 2015 Continuous Quality Improvement Network (CQIN) Summer Institute, “Leading and Managing Change: New Paths and Opportunities,” July 29-August 1, at the Dallas/Plano Marriott Hotel at Legacy Town Center. CQIN is a higher education organization that helps institutions identify the characteristics and practices essential to lead and manage change using new paths and opportunities. LeCroy Center’s Dr. Pam Quinn (provost), Audra Barrett, Valerie Cavazos, Michael Coleman, Terry DiPaolo, Patti Jennings, Jesus Moreno, Emilio Ramos, La’Kendra Higgs, and Denise Zackery attended the Institute as a team to outline change management initiatives as the LeCroy Center continues to assist and support the DCCCD colleges. The opening keynote speaker was Margaret “Meg” Wheatley, author of So Far From Home: Lost and Found in Our Brave New World, and international speaker on how to persevere on behalf of the people, places, and causes we love in spite of disruptions, setbacks, and obstacles. Other keynote presentations included: “How the City of Irving Changed to Meet the Demands of Performance Excellence,” highlighting Irving’s transformation through its Baldrige Award-winning year and how it engaged employees at all levels of the organization in strategic planning, performance measurement, and process improvement, and incorporated the voice of the customer throughout; “The Game Changers in Action” by Complete College America; and “Mission Possible: Managing Major Change Across a Complex Healthcare System” in which Houston Methodist shared its journey for major change while it implemented an enterprise health records management system.

District Service Center

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded for the third consecutive year by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) to the DCCCD for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). The CAFR was judged by an impartial panel to meet GFOA’s high standards: demonstrating a “spirit of full disclosure”; clearly communicating our financial story; and motivating potential users and user groups to read the CAFR. The GFOA (http://gfoa.org/about-gfoa) is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 18,000 federal, state/provincial, and local finance officials throughout the United States and Canada.